

[0007] Another apparatus form of the invention is useful in a gaming system comprising a gaming machine including a game display. In such an environment, apparatus for displaying graphics images unrelated to the operation of the gaming machine comprises a memory for storing image data and a graphics display arranged to display graphics images. A graphics display controller is arranged to generate the graphics images on the display in response to the image data.

[0008] One method form of the invention is useful in a gaming system comprising a service station and at least a first gaming location. In such an environment, communication with the service station and the first gaming location is enabled by providing steps comprising generating messages at the first gaming location and displaying messages visible from the first gaming location interactively, generating messages at the first service station and displaying messages visible from the service station interactively, and transmitting the generated messages.

[0009] Another method form of the invention is useful in a gaming system comprising a first gaming location and a second gaming location. In such an environment, communication between the first and second gaming locations is enabled by providing steps comprising generating messages at the first gaming location and displaying messages from the second gaming location at the first gaming location interactively, generating messages at the second gaming location and displaying messages from the first gaming location at the second gaming location interactively, and transmitting the messages between the first and second gaming locations.

[0010] Another method form of the invention is useful in a gaming system comprising a gaming machine including a game display. In such an environment, graphics images unrelated to the operation of the gaming machine may be displayed by the use of a liquid crystal display by steps comprising storing image data and generating the graphics images in response to the image data.

[0011] By using techniques of the foregoing type, communications with gaming locations and/or service

stations may be carried out with a degree of ease and reliability previously unavailable.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] Figure 1 is a schematic block diagram of one form of gaming system employing a gaming location message display made in accordance with one form of the invention.

[0013] Figure 2 is a block diagram of one of the gaming location message displays shown in Figure 1, together with a game video display.

[0014] Figure 3 is a block diagram of the message display shown in Figure 1 with an exemplary service menu, including a personal service option, a reservation option and a personal message option, and a message menu with a displayed advertisement.

[0015] Figure 4 is a block diagram of the message display shown in Figure 1 with a personal service menu, including a drink option, displayed in response to the selection of the personal service option shown in Figure 3.